

FOLIO



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Fall Convocation 1970

LOUIS A. DESROCHERS, member of the Board of Governors since 1964, will be installed today as ninth Chancellor of the University. Honorary degrees will be presented to two former university presidents; WALTER HUGH JOHNS, President of The University of Alberta from 1959 until 1969, and J. E. WALLACE STERLING, President of Stanford University from 1949 until 1968, and now Chancellor of that university. F. P. GALBRAITH, former Chancellor of The University of Alberta, will be honored posthumously with the Alumni Golden Jubilee Award.



LOUIS DESROCHERS

In the past, the Chancellor's role within the University has been largely ceremonial. The election of LOUIS A. DESROCHERS, a man well-known for his youthful outlook and immense energy, presents a new dimension to the office.

Mr. Desrochers, the ninth Chancellor of The University of Alberta, is the youngest man to hold this position and the first French Canadian.

He was born in 1928 in Montreal, where he received his primary education. When he was eleven years old his father died, and with his mother he moved to Jasper, where an uncle held property. He continued his education at the Jesuit College in Edmonton until it closed in 1942 and then at Collège St. Jean until 1947.

The next two years he spent at the University of Ottawa, at that time loosely affiliated with Collège St. Jean, and completed his BA in 1949. Then he returned to The University of Alberta where he studied law. He is remembered by his professors as an unusually bright and hardworking student and a supremely capable participant in the McGouan debates, contests between the law students of the western Canadian universities. He was also very much involved in extracurricular student activities, and in his final year was elected president of the Law Club.

He was awarded his LLB in 1952, articulated under S. H. McCuaig, and was admitted to the Alberta Bar the following year. According to Dr. McCuaig, "it was obvious from the start that he would be a most successful lawyer and he made himself indispensable"—so indispensable, in fact, that today he is a senior partner in the same firm, now McCuaig, McCuaig, Desrochers, and Company. He was appointed Queen's Counsel this summer.

Once established in his practice as a corporation and estates lawyer, Mr. Desrochers began to take a leading part in community, provincial, and national affairs. Characteristically concerned about children and young people, he served as a provincial

Louis Desrochers, at a Golden Bears football game

treasurer of the Canadian Conference on Children. For six years he was a member of the Board of Directors of the Edmonton Family Services Bureau and president of that Board in 1960-61. From 1966 to 1969 he was Vice-Chairman of the Governing Board of Misericordia Hospital. He has been a member of the Canada Council since 1968.

From 1960 to 1963 Louis Desrochers served as a member of the Northwest Territories Council; as such, not only did he develop a keen appreciation of Eskimo art, but he became aware of a new dimension of Canada, the dimension of the North. Each year with his family he makes a practice of exploring some different aspect of Canada; one year it was the wilderness of northern Saskatchewan; another, the older lands of the Maritimes and Quebec's Eastern Townships, from which his family originates.

SOLANGE CHAPUT-ROLLAND, in her diary of her journeys through English-speaking Canada, *My Country, Canada or Quebec*, speaks of only three French Canadians in Alberta, and one of them was Louis Desrochers. Recognized as a leader of the French community in this province, Mr. Desrochers long has been an active member of the Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta, serving successively as Treasurer, Vice-President, and President. Through his work in the Association, he became a director of L'Assurance-vie Desjardins. Since 1957 he has been a director of Radio-Edmonton Limitée, which owns the French-language radio station, CHFA.

Most of Mr. Desrochers' contributions to the French community involve work behind the scenes, establishing a French-language television channel, a French theatre, and French schools, and generally fostering the survival of a French culture, especially among young Franco-Albertans, in an overwhelmingly Anglophone society.

ROGER MOTUT, Associate Professor of Romance Languages and a prominent member of the French community in Alberta, feels that his confrere is uniquely equipped to be Chancellor, in that his youth and his membership in a minority group make him acutely aware of existing social problems and sensitive to sources of discord within the University. As a member of the Board of Governors since 1964 and Vice-Chairman of the Board since 1966, Louis Desrochers developed the practice of broad consultation with the students and has done much to win their respect and trust. In 1966-67, largely because of his efforts in helping launch the new Students' Union Building, he was named Honorary President of the Students' Union.



WALTER JOHNS

It is characteristic of WALTER HUGH JOHNS to break through the invisible barriers that divide the university community. He is the president who returned to the classroom; the administrator to whom the students applied their own revolutionary slogan: Do not bend or mutilate, this is a human being.

Walter Johns was born in Exeter, Ontario in 1908. He attended the University of Western Ontario in London, graduating in honors classics in 1930. Summers between sessions he worked on the farm, making five dollars a day. His goal was to teach high school in Ontario. From 1930 until 1931 he lectured at Victoria College of the University of Toronto. He was awarded a scholarship which enabled him to go to Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, to get his PhD in classics and ancient history. After his graduation in 1934 he went to Waterloo College in Ontario where he taught until 1938.

In that year he was appointed Lecturer in Classics at The University of Alberta, and with his wife Helen moved west. His first step towards the chief administrative post at the University came with the large increase in enrolment in 1945 with servicemen returning from the war. He became Assistant to the Dean of Arts and Science in that year. Two years later, in 1949, he was appointed Academic Assistant to the President. In 1952 he became Dean of Arts and Science, in 1957 Vice-President, and then in 1959 he was appointed President.

In 1959 The University of Alberta boasted 5,000 students, a population which had not grown significantly since 1946. Ten years later, when President Johns retired, the students numbered 15,000. The operating budget for the University when Dr. Johns took office as President was \$6 million; ten years later it was \$48 million. The face of the campus changed so that it was almost unrecognizable. At least ten new buildings went up, including the Cameron Library, Lister Hall and the first two residences attached, the Henry Marshall Tory Building, the Physical Education Building, the Education Building, and the Household Economics Building. The Faculty of Graduate Studies grew during that period from a very small school to the large and well-respected faculty of today which produces over ten per cent of Canadian PhD's.

The problems facing a President during such a tremendous growth period were serious. Dr. Johns felt his responsibility keenly, and was respected by his colleagues for the work he did. He supported the development of research facilities and libraries. He felt that progress in the humanities was one of Canada's most crucial needs.

In spite of the fact that he was head of a burgeoning institution, Dr. Johns retained the idea of the university as a community of scholars. He did not become lost in administrative mazes, but kept close contact with the life of the campus. He was known as the President who loved to invite students to dinner, who, if he wasn't due at a meeting, could chat for hours about old

books. "Time for learning is too short," he was known to lament, and he would sit up until early morning to read Greek and Latin.

The President's responsibilities were increasingly demanding, while organizations like the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, of which he was Vice-President and President, and the Council of the Association of Commonwealth Universities consumed more time. At the end of ten years, Dr. Johns retired from the presidency. His duty to serve in that capacity had been honored. Dr. Johns decided to return to the classroom, to him the real heart of the University. Now, as Professor of Classics, he shows the same enthusiasm which has lighted all his activities.

Dr. Johns holds four honorary degrees, from the Universities of Western Ontario, Laval, Saskatchewan, and Waterloo Lutheran. For thirty-two years Dr. Johns has given the University his efforts as he has seen fit, and is continuing to do so.

WALLACE STERLING

JOHN EWART WALLACE STERLING is a twentieth century prototype of Emerson's "American Scholar." Whether in historical research, athletics, administration, or as a political advisor, his training and talent led him to excel. Beyond that, he has never lost sight of his responsibility to man.

He was born in Linwood, Ontario, on August 6, 1906, the son of a Scottish minister and his wife. At twenty-one he earned a BA in history and philosophy from the University of Toronto. He was known as a student for his prowess in basketball, rugby, and singing.

Wallace Sterling's first position as a lecturer was at Regina College, in 1927 and 1928. It was a short step to Edmonton where he was appointed sessional assistant in history at The University of Alberta in 1928. "Wally" Sterling distinguished himself in his first year at the University by coaching the rugby

team to their first intercollegiate championship, the Hardy Cup. He also coached the basketball team during his two-year stay. In 1930 he was granted his MA in history. The young historian spent the summer of 1930 arranging the W. S. Pearce papers for the Calgary family. Pearce, a surveyor for the Canadian Pacific Railway, had a particular interest in Alberta's natural resources and irrigation problem. His papers were donated the University in 1955 and are now among the University's most valuable documents.

In 1930 Wallace Sterling married ANNE SHAVER, a former classmate from Toronto, who was then on the staff in Home Economics at The University of Alberta. In 1932 he was hired as a research assistant at the Hoover Library on War, Revolution, and Peace at Stanford University. During the next five years he taught and studied, receiving his doctorate from Stanford in 1938. He took a position at California Institute of Technology, where critical

Wallace Sterling, on The University of Alberta grid, in 1929



army research was being conducted. In 1942 he became a Professor and occupied the Edward S. Harkness Chair of History. He remained at Cal Tech through the war years, also acting as a news analyst for the Columbia Broadcasting System. In 1948 he was appointed Director of the Huntington Library and Art Gallery, one of America's most famous libraries. One year later Dr. Sterling was offered the President's office at Stanford.

In 1949 Dr. Sterling announced his intent to make Stanford "the best of the best." During the twenty years he was President, Stanford rose to become one of the top five universities in the United States, with particular strength in medicine and scientific research. Credit is generally given to Dr. Sterling. Not only did he show strong leadership for faculty and students, but he was the force behind one of the fastest fund-raising drives in history. In three

years, beginning in 1960, \$113 million was raised for the university under Ford Corporation's matching grant plan. The money was not immediately committed to building new facilities, but to attract key men in various fields. Scholars of high calibre began to gather, and eventually Stanford had a faculty comparable to any top eastern university. Dr. Sterling's accomplishments for Stanford were recognized upon his retirement in September, 1968, when he was appointed Lifetime Chancellor.

Building a great university has not entirely absorbed Dr. Sterling's energy. He has served on the advisory board for the Office of Naval Research, and has been a member of the National Advisory Council for Health Research Facilities. He was on civilian faculty for the National War College in 1949, and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. Dr. Sterling was made an Honorary Commander of the Civil Division of the

Order of the British Empire in 1957, and has since been decorated by France, West Germany, Austria, and Japan. He holds thirty-eight honorary degrees from institutions in the United States, Canada, England, and France.

F. P. GALBRAITH

F. P. GALBRAITH attended The University of Alberta as a student from 1913 to 1915, when he enlisted in the Third University Company, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, and went overseas for four years. Except for eight years which he spent in the United Kingdom between the wars, Dr. Galbraith worked in the newspaper business in Red Deer. He was on staff of the *Red Deer Advocate* for fifty years beginning in 1920, serving as Editor from 1934 until the spring of 1970. He was very active in civic affairs and town planning in Red Deer. He served on the Senate of the University from 1948 until 1954, and as Chancellor from 1964 until 1970. He died at Red Deer on May 16, 1970, at the age of 73.

In 1959 he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws by The University of Alberta, and in 1968, the Canadian Centennial Medal.

The inception of the Alumni Golden Jubilee Award in 1958 was to commemorate the University's Golden Anniversary. Dr. Galbraith's widow, CLARETTA GALBRAITH, will accept the award, which is given to persons who have contributed to the welfare of the University.

F. P. Galbraith,
telling a story



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